sherif User Group Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: 21 November 2024, 1–2pm

In Attendance:

Adam Robinson [AR] – chair, Jane Cooke [JC] – treasurer [in attendance 1–1.30pm], Sarah Mann [SM] – notetaker, Arwen Torbin [AT], Nicola Tricker [NT], Michelle Walker [MW] [in attendance c.1.15pm onwards]

		Action points
1	**Welcome and apologies**	
	AR welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies from Sue Abbott. [Post-meeting note: apologies also from Elaine Mulholland.]	
2	**Minutes and actions from the last meeting**	
	AR confirmed that the webinar in collaboration with UKSG will go ahead in January 2025. This is tentatively scheduled for 21 Jan 2025 and is scheduled to last 1 hour 15 minutes. AR will request biographies from speakers.	AR
3	**Matters arising**	
	All other matters arising from the last meeting's minutes will be covered under separate agenda items.	
4	**Chair – change in circumstances**	
	AR reported that he will be moving into a new role at the University of Derby and for a period continuing to cover his current role also. The additional pressure on AR's time means that he will need to step down from his role as chair of sherif at some point. AR hopes to remain as chair through 2025 while arrangements are made for someone to succeed him in this role.	
5	**AGM planning**	
	The committee agreed that transitional agreements (TAs) were an appropriate topic for the AGM in 2025, in the context of Jisc negotiations with journal publishers in the year ahead. After discussion the committee agreed to approach: • Anna Vernon at Jisc • SCONUL (JC to identify a speaker from the SCONUL content strategy group)	AR: Jisc; Paul Cavanagh JC: SCONUL, University of Sheffield

	• the University of Sheffield, who have moved away from TAs (JC to approach contacts – suggested names included Pete Barr, Anna Clements, Anne Grogan and Alison Little) • Paul Cavanagh at the University of Nottingham. JC noted the Cambridge University Press deal offering high or full OA by 2027, based on what Jisc have suggested, though with increased costs. An analysis of this by a member of the content strategy group would be useful. The week of 3 March is likely for the 2025 AGM; Tuesdays have worked well so 4 March is our initial option to offer to speakers, once we have secured them.	
6	**Website update**	
	AT provided a summary of work so far on the new website, and the committee reviewed the report and questions submitted by email from Sue Abbott. The first question related to the length of time we should retain content from past events on the website. After some discussion, the committee agreed that we should retain events materials on the website for five years. In addition the committee will maintain an archive of older materials separate from the website (on Google Drive). The second question was about social media. After some discussion, the committee agreed the following actions for the short term: • Retain the X account but remain inactive there • Do not open any new social media accounts The committee will review the social media strategy once the new website is launched.	Committee
7	**Sherif prize**	
	MW has uploaded this year's submissions (from UCL and the University of the West of England) from LIS students to the committee Google Drive. The three judges for this year were agreed as Sue Abbott, SM and MW. MW reported more engagement this year from library schools, thanks to her revamping of her contacts list and follow-up rounds of contact. (In addition to the schools that submitted, two more contacted MW to confirm that they had no research that fitted the criteria.) However, having refreshed the approach this year, this is still a low level of engagement and therefore	

	the committee decided that we should move away from offering this prize in future years.	
8	**Reports on liaison activity**	
	Nothing to report here.	
9	**Reports on enhancement groups**	
	SM reported the following news from the enhancement groups: • EBSCO meeting went ahead on 15 May 2024. The minutes have not yet reached the sherif committee. • The chair of the EBSCO enhancement group thanked AR and Elaine Mulholland for their support in putting together the open letter that went to EBSCO in summer 2024. Sherif members have by this means secured a delay to a new EBSCOhost interface roll-out that had been timed for January 2025. • Minutes from the last Ovid enhancement group meeting (17 July 2024) are now on the sherif website. • The next Clarivate/Ex Libris group meeting is planned for early December 2024. • The minutes of the last SCOPUS group meeting (1 July 2024) are now in draft form.	
10	**Treasurer's update**	
	[JC had left the meeting before this item.] AT reported a good response rate to renewal reminders, with about a quarter of invoices remaining to go out. AT will follow up with institutions who did not renew for 2024, where there is a possibility of a renewal for 2025.	
11	**Mailing lists**	
	MW reported that activity was steady and there were no issues to report.	
12	**Date and place of next meeting**	
	The next committee meeting will be in the week beginning 13 Jan 2025. SM will establish availability. The committee noted that this was during NT's planned absence.	SM
13	**AOB**	
	There was no other business.	